

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 04670 101221Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01 NIC-01 ACDA-19

DRC-01 /110 W

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O 101102Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0483

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL POZNAN

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PL US

SUBJECT: POLISH MEDIA REACTION FORD INAUGURATION

REF: WARSAW 4657; STATE 174699

1. THE CENTRAL MEDIA CONTINUE PROMINENT REPORTING OF THE TRANSFER OF PPWER AND THE FIRST ACTIONS OF PRESIDENT FORD. FRONT PAGE STORIES ON AUG 10 INCLUDED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF HIS INAUGURAL STATEMENT, HIGHLIGHTING HIS APPEAL FOR POPULAR SUPPORT AND HIS PROMISE TO CONTINUE WORKING FOR PEACE. ADAM STANEK, TRYBUNA LUDU'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S FIRST MEETING WAS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. THIS FACT, THE WHITE HOUSE SESSION WITH FOREIGN AMBASSADORS, AND THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGES TO FOREIGN MINISTER WORLD-WIDE
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PAGE 02 WARSAW 04670 101221Z

ARE EMPHASIZED AS DEMONSTRATING THE CONTINUITY OF US FOREIGN

POLICY. THE NEW YORK TIMES SURVEY SHOWING STRONG PUBLIC SUPPORT OF THE POLICY OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION IS SIMILARLY NOTED. BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF THE NEW PRESIDENT ALSO APPEAR IN THE CENTRAL PRESS.

2. INITIAL COMMENTARY, IN EVENING NEWS BROADCASTS AUG 9 AND IN ARTICLES BY ZYGMUNT BRONIAREK (TRYBUNA LUDU) AND STANISLAW KOSTARSKI (ZYCIE WARSZAWY) ON AUG 10 FURTHER STRESSES THE CONTINUITY OF THE POLICY OF DENTENTE. BOTH POINT OUT THAT IT WAS PRESIDENT NIXON WHO, REALIZING THE LIMITATIONS OF US POWER, "ACCEPTED" THE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE PROMOTED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND THE SOCIALIST COMMUNISM SET US POLICY ON A NEW COURSE. HOWEVER, THEY NOTE FURTHER THAT IT WAS NOT THE "PERSONAL POLICY" OF NIXON BUT, RATHER, A BIPARTISAN POLICY CONDUCTED IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

3. CITING THE SECRETARY'S RECENT STATEMENT, BRONIAREK'S ARTICLE BACKS AWAY FROM THE EARLIER LINE WHICH PLACED FULL BLAME FOR NIXON'S TROUBLES ON DENTENTE OPPONENTS. ALTHOUGH CONTENDING THAT SUCH ELEMENTS SOUGHT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WATERGATE, HE STATES EMPHATICALLY THAT WATERGATE AND ITS FINAL OUTCOME WAS ESSENTIALLY AN INTERNAL MATTER. SIMILARLY, KOSTARSKI ARGUES THAT "VARIOUS FORCES" HAD TRIED TO EXPLOIT THE SITUATION BECAUSE IT DEVELOPED DURING A "CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE", ARISING FROM THE VIETNAM WAR AND A COMPLEX OF VARIOUS INTERNAL MATTERS. BOTH ARTICLES DELVE DEEPER THAN EVER BEFORE INTO THE BACKGROUND OF THE WATERGATE AFFAIR WHICH, THEY ACKNOWLEDGE, HAD FOR SO LONG DISTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT.

4. COMMENT: MEDIA REACTION SO FAR HAS BEEN MATTER-OF-FACT AND POINTEDLY DESIGNED TO REASSURE THE PUBLIC. THE BRONIAREK AND KOSTARSKI PIECES REPRESENT A CLEAR ATTEMPT TO BRING THE POLISH LEADERSHIP UP TO DATE ON THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S RESIGNATION, THUS BRIDGING A LONGSTANDING GAP IN MEDIA DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE.

5. FOR IBS/POLISH SERVICE: ALTHOUGH POLISH MEDIA HAVE RETREATED ON DECISIVE REOL OF DETENTE OPPONENTS, WE RECOMMEND HEAVY ATTENTION BE GIVEN TO THE ISOLATION OF WATERGATE AFFAIR FROM FOREIGN POLICY AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 WARSAW 04670 101221Z

TO THE CONTINUITY OF US FOREIGN POLICY BASED ON BIPARTISAN SUPPORT.

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